

§ 148.33 Articles acquired abroad.

(a) *Exemption.* Each returning resident is entitled to bring in free of duty and internal revenue tax under subheadings 9804.00.65, 9804.00.70 and 9804.00.72, and Chapter 98, U.S. Note 3, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202), articles for his personal or household use which were purchased or otherwise acquired abroad merely as an incident of the foreign journey from which he is returning, subject to the limitations and conditions set forth in this section and §§ 148.34–148.38. The aggregate fair retail value in the country of acquisition of such articles for personal and household use shall not exceed:

(1) \$400, and provided that the articles accompany the returning resident;

(2) Whether or not the articles accompany the returning resident, \$600 in the case of a direct arrival from a beneficiary country as defined in § 10.191(b)(1) of this chapter, not more than \$400 of which shall have been acquired elsewhere than in beneficiary countries; or

(3) Whether or not the articles accompany the returning resident, \$1,200 in the case of a direct or indirect arrival from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States, not more than \$400 of which shall have been acquired elsewhere than in such locations except that up to \$600 of which may have been acquired in one or more beneficiary countries as defined in § 10.191(b)(1) of this chapter.

(b) *Application to articles of highest rate of duty.* The \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 exemption shall be applied to the aggregate fair retail value in the country of acquisition of the articles acquired abroad which are subject to the highest rates of duty. If an internal revenue tax is applicable, it shall be combined with the duty in determining which rates are highest.

(c) *Gifts.* An article acquired abroad by a returning resident and imported by him to be disposed of after importation as his bona fide gift is considered to be for the personal use of the returning resident and may be included in the exemption.

(d) *Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages.* Cigars, cigarettes, manufactured tobacco, and alcoholic beverages may be included in the exemption to which a returning resident is entitled, with the following limits:

(1) No more than 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars may be included, except that in the case of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Virgin Islands of the United States the cigarette limit is 1,000, not more than 200 of which shall have been acquired elsewhere than in such locations;

(2) No alcoholic beverages shall be included in the case of an individual who has not attained the age of 21; and

(3) No more than 1 liter of alcoholic beverages may be included, except that:

(i) An individual returning directly or indirectly from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Virgin Islands of the United States may include in the exemption not more than 5 liters of alcoholic beverages, not more than 1 liter of which shall have been acquired elsewhere than in such locations and not more than 4 liters of which shall have been produced elsewhere than in such locations; and

(ii) An individual returning directly from a beneficiary country as defined in § 10.191(b)(1) of this chapter may include in the exemption not more than 2 liters of alcoholic beverages if at least 1 liter is the product of one or more beneficiary countries.

(e) *Exemption not applicable.* The exemption does not apply to articles intended for sale or acquired on commission, *i.e.*, for the account of another person, with or without compensation for the service rendered. Articles acquired on one journey and left in a foreign country cannot be allowed the exemption accruing upon the return of the resident from a subsequent journey.

(f) *Remainder not applicable to subsequent journey.* A returning resident who has received a total exemption of less than the \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 maximum in connection with his return from one journey is not entitled to apply the unused portion of that maximum amount

§ 148.34

19 CFR Ch. I (4-1-08 Edition)

to articles acquired abroad on a subsequent journey.

[T.D. 73-27, 38 FR 2449, Jan. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. 78-394, 43 FR 49788, Oct. 25, 1978; T.D. 80-179, 45 FR 45580, July 7, 1980; T.D. 86-118, 51 FR 22516, June 20, 1986; T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51264, Dec. 21, 1988; T.D. 97-75, 62 FR 46441, Sept. 3, 1997]

§ 148.34 Family grouping of exemptions for articles acquired abroad.

(a) *Grouping of exemptions.* Each member of a family is entitled to the \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 exemption for articles acquired abroad, subject to the conditions prescribed in this subpart. When members of a family residing in one household travel together on their return to the United States, the \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 exemption to which the several members of the family may be entitled may be grouped and allowed without regard to which member of the family is the owner of the articles. However, a group exemption shall not include an exemption for a family member not entitled to it in his own right, nor shall a group exemption be applied to any property of such a member. The exemption of a family member who has not attained the age of 21 shall not be applied under the group exemption to alcoholic beverages. No exemptions allowable to a resident servant accompanying the family shall be included in the family grouping.

(b) *Members of a family residing in one household.* The term "members of a family in one household" shall include all persons, regardless of age, who:

- (1) Are related by blood, marriage, or adoption;
- (2) Lived together in one household at their last permanent residence; and
- (3) Intend to live together in one household after their arrival in the United States.

[T.D. 73-27, 38 FR 2449, Jan. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. 86-118, 51 FR 22516, June 20, 1986; T.D. 97-75, 62 FR 46442, Sept. 3, 1997]

§ 148.35 Length of stay for exemption of articles acquired abroad.

(a) *Required for allowance of \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 exemption.* Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph or in paragraph (b) of this section, the \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 exemption for articles acquired abroad shall not be allowed un-

less the returning resident has remained beyond the territorial limits of the United States for a period of not less than 48 hours. The \$400 exemption may be allowed on articles acquired abroad by a returning resident arriving directly from Mexico without regard to the length of time the person has remained outside the territorial limits of the United States.

(b) *Not required for allowance of \$1,200 exemption on return from Virgin Islands.* The \$1,200 exemption applicable in the case of the arrival of a returning resident directly or indirectly from the Virgin Islands of the United States may be allowed without regard to the length of time such person has remained outside the territorial limits of the United States.

(c) *Computation of time.* The 48-hour period a returning resident must have completed abroad to be entitled to an exemption shall be computed exactly. For example, a resident leaving United States territory at 1:30 p.m. on June 1 would complete the 48-hour period at 1:30 p.m. on June 3.

[T.D. 73-27, 38 FR 2449, Jan. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. 86-118, 51 FR 22516, June 20, 1986; T.D. 97-75, 62 FR 46442, Sept. 3, 1997]

§ 148.36 Frequency of allowance of exemption for articles acquired abroad.

(a) *30-day period.* The \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 exemption for articles acquired abroad shall not be granted to a returning resident who has taken advantage of such exemption within the 30-day period immediately preceding his return to the United States. The date of the returning resident's latest prior arrival on which he declared articles acquired abroad for allowance of the \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 exemption shall be deemed the date he took advantage of the applicable exemption.

(b) *Computation of time.* The 30-day period immediately preceding the resident's return shall be computed by excluding the day of arrival and counting backward 30 days. For example, in the case of an arrival on May 28, the resident would not be entitled to the \$400, \$600, or \$1,200 exemption if he had